Artists of Abraham Lincoln portraits

George L. Clough

Excerpts from newspapers and other sources

From the files of the

Lincoln Financial Foundation Collection

The following newspaper article is copied from the original which was published as far as I know in an Auburn, New York newspaper sometime between 1900 and 1910. At the present time, (Dec. 1959), I am endeavoring to find out the name of the paper and the exact date of the publication in which this article was printed.

VALUABLE PAINTING OF LINCOLN

Just at present there is in possession of the Jennings' art store a picture which money could not purchase from James Bruce who owns it. The picture is a panel portrait in oil of the martyred Lincol and it was painted by Artist George L Clough, late of this city. So far as is known this picture has never been used by any biographer of the war president, in fact very few people know of its existence although it is one of the best of Lincoln as a young man. Outside of its historical interest the picture is of artistic value as it is one of the best of Clough's works.

The artist and President Lincoln were personal friends and the portrait was made from life. It was painted at Cleveland, O., during the early fifties. Lincoln is much younger in appearance here than in most of the popular portraits of him. He is without a beard and while the wrinkles which characterize his rugged countenance are greatly in evidence, the face lacks the careworn expression which marked him later.

This newspaper article was found pasted on the back of the painting. Alongside it was another article markdd "Special to The New York Times" which told of a dispute in Omaha, Nebraska on whether or not Lincoln had a beard at the time of his first inauguration.

Lawrence D. Marks

Lawrence D. Marks
Dec. 6th, 1959

148 Willard Ave.

Bloomfield, N. J.

Deb. 13th, 1960

The National Lincoln Life Insurance Foundation

Fort Wayne, Indiana

Att'n The Director,

Dear Mr. E. Gerald McMurty,

It has come to my attention, that your Foundation might be interested in knowing something concerning an oil painting of Abraham Lincoln which has recently come into my possession.

Attached, you will find a matte print of the Lincoln portrait. The size of the original painting is 10" x 12". Also, attached is a sheet of additional information which is self explanatory. Also , please find a 35mm color slide which, when projected on a screen, might interest you more than the black and white enlargement.

Please excuse any amateur photographic faults, as I took the pictures myself rather than have the original painting out of my possession. of course, the necessary printing was commercially done. The slide should be projected so that the left side of the face and shoulders is showing, as this is the case in the original portrait.

Hoping that the above will prove of historical interest to you and the Foundation. If so, I will be pleased to hear from you at your convenience.

Very Truly Yours

Lawrence D. Marks

Lawrence D. Marks

Color slide
Dup. P-704 Dec. 59
#26

143 Willard Ave.

Bloomfield, N. J.

Feb. 15th, 1960

The National Lincoln Life Insurance Foundation

Fort Wayne, Indiana

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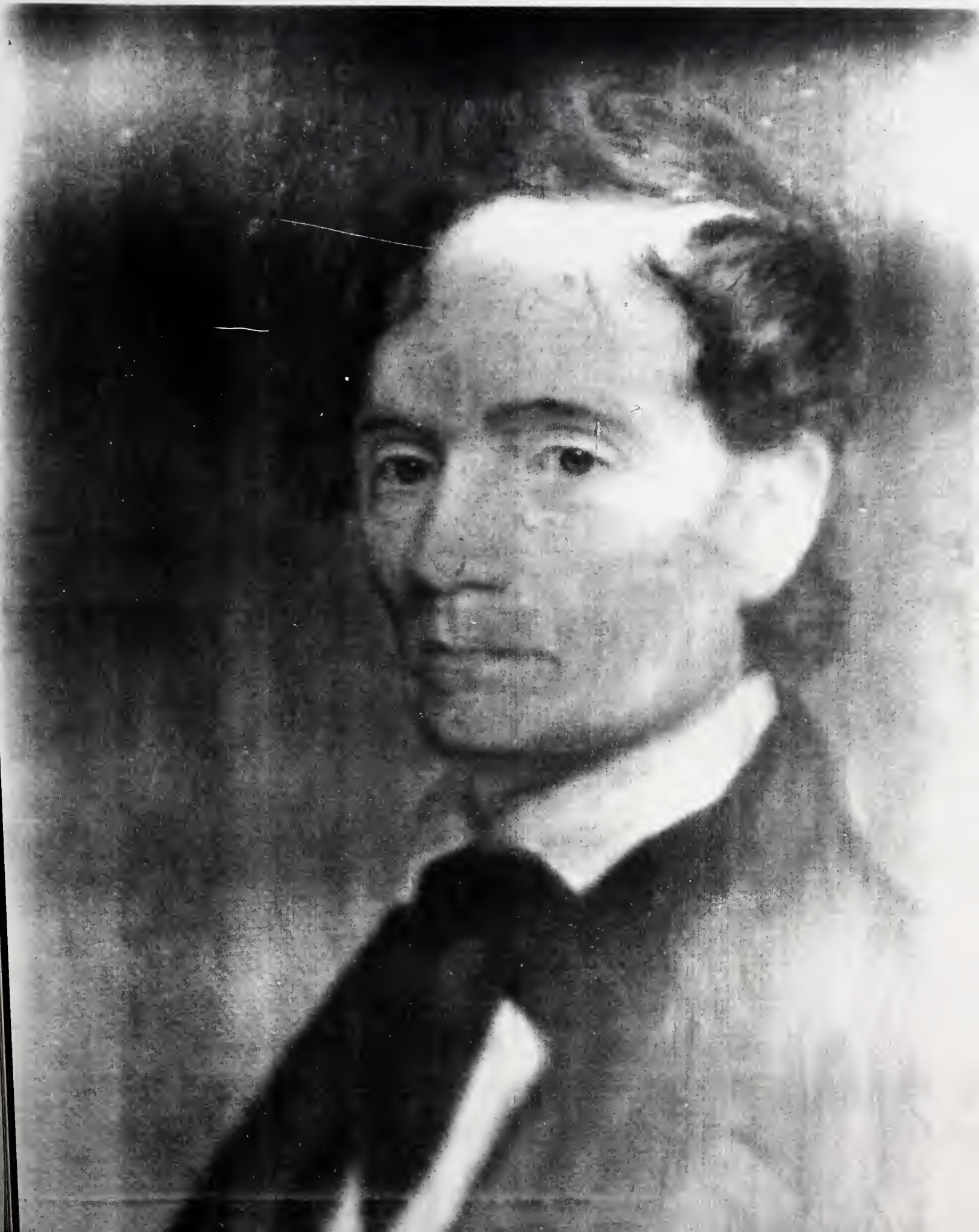

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February 23, 1960

Mr. Lawrence D. Marks
148 Willard Avenue
Bloomfield, New Jersey

Dear Mr. Marks:

I wish to acknowledge your letter of February 13 addressed to Dr. R. Gerald McMurtry and photograph of the Lincoln painting which you own.

Dr. McMurtry is out of the office at present concluding his annual speaking itinerary and will not return here until the end of February. At this time I will bring your correspondence and enclosures to his attention.

Sincerely yours,

(Miss)MEMoellering:jy

March 2, 1960

Mr. Lawrence D. Marks
148 Willard Avenue
Bloomfield, New Jersey

Dear Mr. Marks:

I have read your letter of February 15th and have examined the photograph of your Lincoln painting. Likewise, I have read the inscription which appears on the back of the portrait. I have not been able to use the photographic slide as I do not have a projector readily available.

I have never seen this portrait before and we have no information concerning George L. Clough in our files.

Do you want me to return the photograph and the photographic slide? We would of course like to have this material for our files. If I could keep the material, we might be able to do further work on the origin of the portrait.

I am sorry that I cannot give you any further information about your portrait at this time.

It is a well known fact that Lincoln wore a beard on March 4, 1861 the day of his inauguration.

Yours sincerely,

R. Gerald McMurtry

RGM:hw

Clough, George L

Drawer 19a

Artists - C